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**STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

together with the

Report of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year

1967



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STANDISH-WITH-LANGTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman of the Council:
Councillor G. MEADOW, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:
Councillor W. LYON

Members of the Council:

Councillor N. CAPSTICK	Councillor J. HEALEN
Councillor W. J. COUPE, A.C.A.	Councillor O. JOHNS
Councillor Mrs. C. E. R. COUPE	Councillor J. McALLISTER
Councillor Mrs. M. I. DAVENPORT	Councillor W. J. P. McEVOY
Councillor E. GARNER	Councillor E. A. NAYLOR
Councillor R. HART, C.Eng., M.I.M.E.	Councillor Mrs. M. E. TURNER
	Councillor W. WILLIAMS

*The Public Health Committee consisting of all Members
of the Council is the Committee having charge of matters
of public health within the Urban District.*

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:
Councillor O. JOHNS

Vice-Chairman of the Public Health Committee:
Councillor Mrs. M. I. DAVENPORT

Clerk of the Council:
H. W. HARRIS, F.C.C.S., D.M.A.

Medical Officer of Health:
J. H. M. ROBERTSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:
B. L. PARKER, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:
P. S. DAVIES, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.C.A.T.S.

Clerk:
Miss J. E. JOLLEY

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council

Public Health Department,
Ashfield House,
Standish.

Telephone: Standish 2012.

June, 1968.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Standish-with-Langtree Urban District Council*

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1967.

As in previous years it has been compiled in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health.

In this my first year of office—I wish to express my gratitude for the assistance and co-operation received from the Officers of the Council and particularly to Mr. B. L. Parker the Public Health Inspector for his unfailing support.

I also respectfully wish to offer to members of the Council my appreciation for the courtesy and encouragement given to me at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. M. ROBERTSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (Preliminary Census, 1961).....	.....	.....	9,689
Registrar-General's estimated mid-year (1965) home population	.....	.....	10,620
Acreage of district	.....	.....	3,266
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1967 according to rate book	.....	.....	3,969
Rateable Value (31-3-1967)	.....	.....	£340,007
Product of penny rate (Actual 31-3-1967)	.....	.....	£1,268-3-0

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Standish-with-Langtree Urban District is pleasantly situated North of the County Borough of Wigan and adjoining it.

The Rural District of Wigan lies to the East and West and the Rural District of Chorley to the North.

Standish itself is located on the M6 motorway and is easily accessible by both north and southbound traffic.

The maximum distance between the boundaries is about 5 miles and the height of the district above sea level varies from 88 to 375 feet.

The surface waters mainly gravitate to the adjacent Douglas Valley to be taken away by the river of that name.

The geological formation is of black loamy soil having generally a sandy sub-soil and in the Eastern parts there are considerable strata of hard rock. The district is rich in coal seams at varying depths.

Although the district is typically urban much of the property is residential in character.

The principal industries in the district are food canning and bottling, brewing beer, manufacture of textiles, agriculture, engineering and joinery manufacture. Employment in these industries has been well maintained during the year.

All coal mines in and adjacent to the district have now been closed, but the effects of mining subsidence continue to be experienced particularly in the northern part of the district.

Each year there is a definite increase in population and rateable value.

For the purpose of Local Government the district is divided into five wards, each with three representatives, making a total of fifteen Councillors.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	Live Births—number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	111	84	195
Illegitimate	1	1	2

The live birth rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are:—

Crude rate	.....	.....	.....	18.5
Adjusted rate	.....	.....	.....	18.1 (17.2)
Comparability factor	.....	.....	.....	0.98

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births is 1.02.

	Stillbirths—number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths is 10 (14.8).

DEATHS

	Deaths (all causes)—number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
	62	68	130

The mortality rates per 1,000 of estimated home population are:—

Total (all causes): Crude rate	.....	.....	12.2
Adjusted rate	.....	.....	14.5 (11.2)
Comparability factor	.....	.....	1.19
Respiratory tuberculosis	.....	.....	Nil (0.037)
Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	.....	.....	2.54 (2.27)

Maternal mortality (including abortion): There were no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. The maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths is nil.

Infant mortality (deaths of infants under 1 year of age):—

	Number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	Nil	2	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 10 (18.3).

Neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age):—

	Number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	Nil	2	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 10 (12.5).

Early neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under 1 week of age):—

	Number registered		
	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	Nil	2	2
Illegitimate	Nil	Nil	Nil

The early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births is 10 (10.8).

Perinatal mortality (stillbirths and deaths of infants under 1 week of age combined):—

The perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths is 20 (25.4).

CANCER: Twenty-seven deaths occurred in 1967—14 males and 13 females compared with 18 deaths—11 males and 7 females in 1966.

Facilities for radium treatment for Standish residents are available at the Manchester Radium Institute and at Wigan Infirmary Clinic.

Figures in parenthesis are corresponding figures for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1967

Cause of Death	Sex	Total All ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	Age in years							
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-
Syphilitic Disease ...	M.	1										1
F.												
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ...	M.	1										
F.												
Malignant Neoplasm (Stomach) ...	M.	1										
F.												
Malignant Neoplasm (Lung-Bronchus) ...	M.	6										
F.												
Malignant Neoplasm (Breast) ...	M.	1										
F.												
Malignant Neoplasm (Uterus) ...	M.	1										
F.												
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M.											
Diabetes ...	M.	7										
F.		9										
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	M.											
Coronary Disease—Angina ...	M.	12										
F.		6										
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	M.	9										
F.		2										
Other Heart Disease ...	M.	3										
F.		1										
Other Circulatory Disease ...	M.	13										
F.		2										
Influenza ...	M.	1										
F.		4										
Pneumonia ...	M.	2										
F.		2										
Bronchitis ...	M.	3										
F.		4										
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	M.											
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	M.											
Gastritis—Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	M.											
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	M.											
F.												
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	M.											
F.												
Congenital Malformations ...	M.											
F.												
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	M.											
F.												
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	M.											
F.												
All Other Accidents ...	M.											
F.												
Total All Causes ...	M.	62										
F.		68										

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service established at the Wigan and Preston Infirmaries are used for bacteriological examinations. Chemical analyses are usually undertaken by the County Analyst at Preston.

The arrangements have proved quite adequate and satisfactory.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the Lancashire County Council (Health Division No. 8) as the Local Authority under the National Health Service Act. A new ambulance station situated in Glebe Close covers the needs of Standish. The service is quite satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Apart from the prevalence of measles, totalling 159 cases mostly in children of pre-school age, occurring at the beginning and end of the year, there were few cases of other diseases as a perusal of the following table will indicate.

Food Poisoning. No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

General. In accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Acts, a copy of each notification of an infectious disease, including food poisoning, has to be sent by the department to the Local Health Authority within 12 hours, if possible, and in any case within 48 hours after receipt.

Other returns relating to the prevalence of and deaths from notifiable infectious diseases have to be sent to the Registrar-General and the County Medical Officer of Health at weekly and quarterly intervals.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1967

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED AGE PERIODS—YEARS							65 and 45 over age un- known deaths									
		0	1	2	3	4	5	10										
Measles (excl. rubella)	159	10	23	26	24	18	56	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Resp.)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Non-resp.)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	165	10	23	27	24	18	56	2	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

The following statistics show the number of children resident in Standish who were immunised and vaccinated during the year.

	<i>Type of prophylactic</i>						<i>Pre-School Children</i>	<i>School Children</i>
	
Diphtheria:								
Primary	198	15
Re-inforcement	111	135
Whooping Cough:								
Primary	177	7
Re-inforcement	76	7
Tetanus:								
Primary	198	15
Re-inforcement	112	130
Poliomyelitis:								
Primary	188	18
Re-inforcement	Nil	163
Smallpox Vaccinations:								
Primary	153	19
Re-vaccinations	Nil	12

TUBERCULOSIS

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, Specialist Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the General Practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Minister of Health, is responsible for both prevention and after-care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

Standish cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

Two new cases of respiratory and one new case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year compared with three respiratory and one non-respiratory case last year. There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action was taken under these Acts in respect of the removal of persons in need of care and attention.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The Statutory Water Undertaker is the Makerfield Water Board, which, on the 2nd October, 1961, assumed responsibility for providing the district with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

The Council has one representative on the Makerfield Water Board.

The whole of the water supplied to this district by the Board is obtained in bulk from the Manchester Corporation and comes from Thirlmere.

The water is filtered and chlorinated at the Standish waterworks before distribution.

During the year the Board carried out extensions to water mains for new housing purposes and to improve the supply in certain low pressure areas.

All houses in the district are supplied from public water mains direct to houses and the supply is generally plentiful.

No action was necessary as regards any form of contamination or plumbo-solvency.

The fluoride content is 0.07 part per million which is similar to that normally found in Thirlmere water.

Water Sampling.—The following samples of fully treated water going into supply were taken during the year and the results are tabulated below.

Bacteriological examinations			Chemical analyses		
No.	Results		No.	Results	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
5	5	Nil	2	2	Nil

The water supply is consistently reported upon as a good soft upland surface water free from organic pollution and in every way quite fit for drinking and all domestic purposes.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. B. L. Parker—Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent—has kindly contributed the following report:—

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Butcher's Shops	9	Dustbin Provision	157
Slaughterhouses.....	216	Keeping of Animals & Poultry ...	5
Bakehouses	4	River Pollution	2
Fish & Chip Shops	3	Housing Act Inspections	189
Ice-Cream Vendors	7	Housing Applications	4
Cafes & Canteens	7	Overcrowding	1
Licensed Premises	6	Caravans & Movable Dwellings ...	3
Other Food Premises	111	Infectious Disease Inquiries	206
Hawkers & Delivery Vehicles ...	26	Filthy or Verminous Premises ...	36
Dairies	3	Disinfection of Premises	4
Milk Distributors	31	Disinfestation of Premises	44
Factories (Non-Mech.)	2	Interviews with Owners, etc.	131
Factories (Mech.)	38	Re-Inspection of Notices	203
Sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering		Rodent Control	762
Construction	6	Atmospheric Pollution	11
P.H.A. Workplaces	4	Water Supplies	9
Outworkers Premises	2	Scrap Metal & Marine Store Dealers	1
Shops under Shops Act	294	Hairdressing Establishments	7
O.S.R.P. Act	40	Welfare—Aged Persons & Problem Families	9
Investigation of Complaints	84	Noise Abatement Act	6
Inspections & Tests Drainage ...	272	Agricultural Units.....	2
School Sanitary Accommodation	3	Riding Establishments	1
Septic Tanks & Cesspools	13	Outdoor Fêtes	1
Privy Middens & Pail Closets ...	2	Civic Amenities Act	2
Supervision over Refuse Collection & Disposal	147	Various Causes	36
Watercourses	1		

Total Number of Inspections: 3,163

SUMMARY OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES

<i>Description</i>	<i>No. discovered</i>
	<i>and abated</i>
Defective refuse receptacles	157
Defective or obstructed drainage systems	153
Defective windows	102
Defective roofs	50
Defective brickwork (external walls)	44
Defective doors and frames	39
Defective chimney stacks and flues	38
Damp—defective and perished wall plaster.....	31
Defective eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	24
Defective watercloset appliances	20
Obstructed eaves gutters or rainwater pipes	16
Offensive odours and accumulations	13
Defective or flooded approach paths and yards	11
Dangerous boundary walls	11
Defective ceilings	10
Flooded cellars and sub-floor spaces	9
External decoration	8
Defective cold water service pipes	5
Defective or obstructed private sewage disposal plant	5
Defective floors	4
Defective firegrates	4
Keeping of animals and poultry	4
Smoke and grit emission	4
Defective gates	3
Defective watercloset structures	3
Defective or insanitary sink waste pipes	2
Filthy or verminous premises.....	2
Noise nuisances.....	2
Defective outbuildings.....	1
Defective light fittings.....	1
Defective barge-boards	1
Abandoned or derelict vehicles	1
Polluted or obstructed watercourses	1
Insufficient or unsatisfactory water supplies	1
Insect infestation	1
<hr/>	
Defects or Nuisances : Number discovered and abated	781

Number of Notices served : Informal 65. Statutory 4.

Legal proceedings : Nil.

The foregoing statistics indicate the attention given to improving the everyday environmental matters which are so essential to the health and well-being of the community—matters which although unspectacular in themselves cover a field far wider than is generally appreciated.

The sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close supervision and any health problems that have arisen have been dealt with satisfactorily.

The chief sanitary requirements of the district remain a comprehensive sewerage and sewage disposal scheme and the paving and drainage of unmade roads. Both these matters are being dealt with by the Council.

The work of the public health department is prevention rather than cure. The department seeks to ensure that at all times and in all places all that contributes to the health and comfort of the individual is assured.

DRAINAGE

The Council operates a rate-borne drain clearing service under the control of the public health department.

This service ensures the expeditious clearance of obstructed drainage systems which might otherwise give rise to potentially unhealthy conditions.

It is a service which is greatly appreciated by the general public and was called for on 153 occasions.

Where as sometimes happens drainage systems are found to be defective—advice is given to owners as to the best method of remedying the faults found and work in progress is supervised.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Approximate number of the various types of sanitary accommodation provided in the district is as follows:—

Number of dwellings on water carriage system	3,965
Number of dwellings not on water carriage system	4
Number of privy middens (mostly on farms)	5
Number of pail closets (mostly on farms)	11
Number of waste water closets	2
Number of moveable dustbins	4,241

It is impracticable for the few remaining conservancy closets to be connected to the public sewerage system, but, as opportunities arise, every effort is made and ingenuity used, to find ways and means of conversion to the water carriage system with outfall to private sewage disposal plant.

HOUSING

STATISTICS

1.—Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

		Houses	Flats
(i)	By the local authority	Nil	Nil
(ii)	By other local authorities	Nil	Nil
(iii)	By other bodies or persons	137	Nil

2.—Total No. of dwellings owned by any local authority, existing in district at end of year

880

3.—Inspections of dwellings during the year:—

(i) (a)	Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	220
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose	392
(c)	No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit.....	65
(ii)	Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year, occupied or not, which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which:—	
	(a) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have been made (at any time)	Nil
	(b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made	16

4.—Houses Demolished :—

In or Adjoining Clearance Areas :

	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed	
		Persons	Families
(i) Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil		
(ii) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil		
(iii) Houses on land acquired under S.43(2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil		
Not in or Adjoining Clearance Areas :			
(iv) As a result of formal or informal procedure under S.16 or S.17(1), Housing Act, 1957.....	3		
(v) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health	Nil		
(vi) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts	Nil		
(vii) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	Nil		

5.—Unfit Houses Closed :—	Number	Displaced during year from houses to be demolished or closed	
		Persons	Families
(i) Under S.16(4), S.17(1) and S.35(1), Housing Act, 1957, and S.26, Housing Act, 1961	Nil		
(ii) Under S.17(3) and S.26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		
(iii) Parts of buildings closed under S.18, Housing Act, 1957	Nil		

6.—Unfit Houses Made Fit :—	Number		
(i) By owner after informal action by local authority	65		
(ii) After formal notice under S.9 and S.16, Housing Act, 1957		Nil	
(a) by owner		Nil	
(b) by local authority		Nil	
(iii) After formal notice under Public Health Acts ...	3		
(iv) After modification or revocation of a clearance order under S.21, Housing Act, 1961.....		Nil	
(v) After determination of a demolition order under S.24, Housing Act, 1957		Nil	
(vi) After determination of a closing order under S.27, Housing Act, 1961		Nil	

7.—Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):—

Position at end of year :	Number of houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1)	
		(2)	
(i) Retained for temporary accomodation—			
(a) Under Section 48	Nil	Nil	
(b) Under S.17(2)	Nil	Nil	
(c) Under S.46	Nil	Nil	
(ii) Licensed for temporary occupation under S.34 or S.53	Nil	—	

8.—Purchase of Houses by Agreement :—	Number of houses (1)	No. of occupants of houses in Col. (1)	
		(2)	
Houses in clearance areas other than those included in confirmed orders or compulsory purchase orders	Nil	Nil	

9.—Housing Act, 1949, and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958—
Improvement grants, etc. :—

	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of	
	Private bodies or individuals	Local Authority
Action during year : .		
(i) Submitted by private individuals to local authority	12	—
(ii) Approved by local authority	12	—
(iii) Submitted by local authority to Ministry	Nil	Nil
(iv) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil
(v) Work completed	12	Nil
(vi) Additional separate dwellings included in(v) above	Nil	Nil
(vii) Any other action taken under the Acts (give brief particulars)	Nil	—

10.—House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Acts, 1961 and 1964—Standard Grants:—

HOUSING : Housing is one of the most important factors affecting the health of any community. The duty of maintaining an inspection of the housing conditions in the district was continued during the year. Much time was devoted to this important sphere of environmental health work which resulted—although with considerable difficulty—in the improvement of the housing conditions of many families.

Slum clearance proposals have so far involved the demolition or closing of 69 dwellinghouses.

These proposals—designed to clear the worst of the unfit houses in the district—have received the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The appraisal of housing conditions is a continuing process and it is estimated that at the present time 16 houses do not have an expectation of life of 15 years.

Good progress has been made with the actual demolition of condemned properties without resort to default action.

Housing conditions in the district are generally fairly good and no serious slum problem exists.

One house in multiple occupation has been let off in rooms so as to provide five units of accommodation. The premises comply with the statutory requirements and a good standard of management is applied.

With regard to the improvement of housing conditions, a detailed house-to-house survey of the whole of the Urban District was completed in September, and, as a result, all houses worth and capable of grant-aided improvement and all houses considered not to have a life of 15 years were scheduled and identified on 1 : 2500 scale ordnance survey sheets.

All houses which have had grant-aided improvement were similarly scheduled and identified.

There are some 3,850 houses in the district and an estimated 570, or for practical purposes 15 per cent, are worth and capable of being improved.

The survey also revealed that of the 570 houses requiring improvement some 50 or so of these lacked only an internal watercloset.

These houses are sub-standard but are not in such a state of disrepair and not so badly arranged as to be included in slum-clearance schemes. Most of these houses were built in the late 19th century—they are structurally sound but lack what are rightly considered today to be essential amenities—and still have a useful life probably in the region of 20 to 30 years. The residents of these dwellings are normally content to remain where they have lived for most of their lives and would welcome the improvement of their homes to give them the minimum amenities which are expected today.

Each year steady progress is made in putting new life into this type of dwelling.

There are two kinds of grant available for modernising older houses:—

- (1) The (1959) Standard Grant which house owners can claim as of right. During the time the Act has been in operation 75 houses have been improved to the five point standard.
- (2) The (1949) Discretionary Grant which covers more extensive improvements is paid at the discretion of the Council. 181 houses have so far been improved to the twelve point standard with the assistance of discretionary grants.

It is in both national and local interest that the maximum number of houses—capable of being raised to this higher standard of fitness—comfort and convenience—should be preserved—for all houses should be furnished with these simple aids to healthy living. To halt obsolescence before it reaches the slum stage by providing some measure of financial assistance is a much better proposition than doing nothing until the only solution is demolition and a new house as a replacement.

Schemes for the grant-aided improvement of 57 council-owned 1919 houses and 18 dwellings purchased by the Council from private owners are being dealt with by Consultant Architects.

At the end of the year there were 175 applicants for Council housing accommodation—approximately 125 requiring 2-bedroom—10 requiring 3-bedroom type houses—and 40 requiring aged persons bungalows. Whilst a degree of overcrowding exists it does not constitute a serious problem. Investigation into the circumstances of a number of applicants was made and reports prepared for the guidance of the committee in its endeavours to ensure that applicants with the greatest housing need are re-housed. The number of applicants having an acute housing need is now not so great as it was some few years ago.

Whilst Standish attracts considerable housing development by private enterprise—there remains no small demand and preference for that substantial municipal house with the security of good management.

Eight one-bedroomed flats for aged persons with warden supervision were under construction at Smalley Street and the provision of 15 dwellings comprising 3 houses and 12 flats to complete the Larkhill Estate together with 45 dwellings to redevelop the Grove Place site following the demolition of the aluminium bungalows were contemplated.

Mining subsidence continues—now to a lesser degree—to make its impact upon the community here—destroying homes and disrupting families. No amount of depreciation payments or remedial works can fully compensate the householder—more particularly the housewife who bears the brunt of the upset—for the inconvenience and unrest caused.

Mining subsidence—an inexact science—is a continuing process which can never be fully assessed and where it is in evidence normal day-to-day work is all the more difficult.

Rent Act, 1957

No action was called for under the provisions of this Act during the year.

DISINFESTATION

The following premises were disinfested during the year for the reasons stated:—

Clover mite	.....	.....	.....	.....	14 dwellings
Ants	.....	.....	.....	.....	13 dwellings
Wasps	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 dwellings
Cluster flies	.....	.....	.....	.....	4 dwellings
Cockroaches	.....	.....	.....	.....	2 dwellings
Golden spider beetles	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 dwelling
Unwholesome conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	1 dwelling

Where the furniture and effects of prospective tenants of Council houses are known to be verminous—disinfestation is carried out in order to prevent infestation of the new premises.

Spraying and dusting with various insecticidal liquids and powders proved to be highly effective.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION

All notified cases of certain infectious diseases are visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given concerning isolation of the case and the care to be exercised by contacts.

Public library books from infected premises are disinfected by the health department before being returned to the library for re-issue. Books in an unserviceable condition are sometimes destroyed by arrangement with the librarian.

Four premises were disinfected during the year.

A standing arrangement with Hindley Urban District Council exists for the transportation and treatment of infected articles requiring steam disinfection.

RODENT CONTROL

One trained part-time operator is employed on rodent control work.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicates the nature and extent of work carried out during the 12 months ended 31-12-1967.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-agricultural	Agricultural
(a) No. of properties in district ...	4,065	40
(b) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	159	5
(c) No. of (b) infested by—rats ... mice...	131 20	5 Nil
(d) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	180	35
(e) No. of (d) infested by—rats ... mice...	10 14	1 Nil

No sewers were found to be infested by rats during the year.

A total of 762 visits was made for rodent control purposes and 2 "block control" schemes were carried out. No unusual difficulties were experienced in the destruction of rats and mice and no other infestation as defined in Sect. 28 of the Act had to be dealt with.

The rat is a parasite on our social structure and the depredations of rodents if left to proliferate are costly and highly dangerous.

Rodent control techniques are better understood and practiced today than ever before.

Residents can help by repressing rats and mice and reporting immediately the presence of these pests.

The services of the Council's rodent operator—under the control and supervision of the Public Health Inspector—are available to undertake the destruction of rats and mice on land or premises within the Urban District.

No charge is made for the disinfection of private dwelling-houses but business and agricultural premises are charged for treatments on a time and material basis as distinct from contract terms.

The sewers and sewage disposal works were systematically treated also the refuse disposal sites.

It is only by co-ordinated attention to underground and surface infestations that the rat population is kept to a minimum.

No legal proceedings were taken under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act during the year.

Regular attendances were made at the South West Lancashire Advisory Committee on Pest Control and the fullest co-operative working with contiguous local authorities and other bodies exists.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public sanitary conveniences for both sexes planned and equipped on modern lines are maintained by the Council in a central and convenient position in the township.

It is more than regrettable that these conveniences have been the target for acts of vandalism by what are obviously misguided individuals.

The Council has made Byelaws as to the conduct of persons using the conveniences.

The provision of public sanitary conveniences at Standish Lower Ground is under consideration.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Continuous pollution of rivers and streams takes place from both public and private sewage disposal plant. Attempts are made to reduce the pollution from private premises by the health department arranging for the cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks at the cost of the respective owners. The pollution from public sewage disposal works can only be mitigated by the provision of new main sewerage and sewage disposal schemes.

As from the 1st June, 1963, a date fixed by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, it became an offence to CONTINUE to discharge into any stream or river (including canal) any trade or sewage effluent, unless the consent of the Lancashire River Board had been obtained or applied for before that date.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Standish has a water carriage system serving the majority of premises in the district. Areas at Thornhill—part of Wigan Lower Road and the northern portion of Preston Road are unsewered.

The Local Authority maintains two sewage disposal works—at Arbour Lane and Chorley Road—and two sewage farms—at Fairhurst House and Langtree. The Chorley Road works and the sewage farms are grossly overloaded and cannot deal efficiently with the increased influx of recent years. The Arbour Lane works has been so badly disrupted by mining subsidence as to render the effective treatment of sewage thereat impracticable. The sewerage system for Standish Lower Ground discharges into the trunk sewer of Wigan Corporation.

The prospect of heavy and continuous rainfall is—in certain parts of the Urban District—now regarded with fear because of the past unpleasant experiences following the surcharging of sewers and drains and the consequent fouling of yards and gardens with voluminous quantities of sewage.

The sewerage system in the James Square area has been so badly disrupted by mining subsidence as to destroy self-cleansing velocities and the consequent build-up of solids in the sewers periodically causes serious public health problems.

The Bradley sewer is known to be defective and at certain times it is incapable of containing the increased volume of trade waste which it now receives. Continuous gross pollution of the Bradley Brook results.

The attention of the Council has been drawn to incidents and conditions such as are described and which constitute a very serious threat to the health of the local inhabitants.

A scheme for the improvement of the sewerage and sewage disposal systems has approached finalisation on several occasions only to be held up by unforeseen circumstances beyond the control of the Council and its Consultant Engineers.

To alleviate some of the unhealthy conditions mentioned, consent to the borrowing of £432,000 for the first phase of the scheme was given and work on the internal re-sewering of the district was begun in July, 1966, and, together with a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the Thornhill area, was making satisfactory progress at the end of the year.

The Consultant Engineers are now preparing the second phase of the scheme which will carry the sewage from the main pumping station situated off Chorley Road to the treatment works of Wigan Corporation.

CARAVAN SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Site licences under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, to use plots of land as sites for single caravans have been granted in two instances.

The use of caravans and similar structures for permanent residence should be discouraged as such moveable structures do not constitute suitable substitutes for dwellings of traditional construction.

There are no camping sites within the Urban District.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

General observations of the ten factory and other chimneys were made during the year. Pollution of the atmosphere from industrial furnaces within the Urban District has now largely been eliminated.

The emission of smoke and fumes from the extensive spoilbanks at the disused Victoria and Giants Hall Collieries periodically gave cause for concern and measures had to be taken by the National Coal Board to mitigate the recurring nuisances.

Section 3 of the Clean Air Act, 1956, requires the person proposing to install a new furnace having a heating capacity greater than 55,000 British Thermal Units per hour to give notice of this intention to the local authority. Three such installations were notified during the year.

The chimney height of one solid-fuel central heating installation was fixed in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Clean Air Act, 1956.

With regard to the progressive elimination of domestic smoke—responsible for about one half of all atmospheric pollution—householders are advised to install approved smokeless methods of heating when replacing old and obsolete grates. The trend towards full or partial central heating in new and existing dwellings is a correct one.

With the object of promoting cleaner air, Regulation M2 of The Building Regulations, 1965, requires the installation of approved heating or cooking appliances in new buildings.

This Urban District is not included in the provisional list of "black areas" prepared by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for domestic smoke-control purposes.

The Council is a member of the National Society for Clean Air.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No offensive trades are carried on in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are none in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND BATHING POOLS

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in the district.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

(1)—Shops Acts, 1950 to 1965.

The provisions of these Acts concerning working hours, intervals for meals and rest and weekly half-day holiday of young persons are the responsibility of the Lancashire County Council as the Shops Act Authority but the Public Health Inspector is delegated Inspector of Shops by the County Council as regards these matters. Details of each shop inspection are sent to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions reported are dealt with directly by the County Council.

There are 145 shops of various kinds within the Urban District in respect of which 294 inspections were made. Assistants are employed in 56 shops and young persons in 7 of this number.

(2)—Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

The purpose of this Act is to make provision for securing the health, safety and welfare of persons employed to work in office, shop and certain railway premises.

The following is an abstract of information from the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour in accordance with the provisions of Section 60 of the Act.

CLASS OF WORKPLACE	Total number of registered premises at end of year	No. of persons employed in such premises
Offices:	17	..... 49
Retail Shops:	40	..... 104
Wholesale shops, warehouses:	3	..... 28
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens:	6	..... 40
Fuel storage depots:	2	..... 4
	Totals: 68	Males: 94 Females: 131
Number of general inspections carried out:		27
Number of visits of all kinds made:		40
Number of contraventions found:		43
Number of notices served re: contraventions:		10
Number of exemptions granted:		Nil
Number of prosecutions:		Nil
Number of accidents reported:		Nil

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

There are sixteen hairdressing establishments—three for males and thirteen for females—within the Urban District.

Byelaws as to the cleanliness of hairdressers and barbers made under Section 77 of the Public Health Act, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1967.

Enforcement of the byelaws is resulting in higher standards of cleanliness and the provision of sterilisers for hairdressing equipment in these establishments.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

Part I of the Factories Act, 1961

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	2	2	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	28	38	1	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworker's premises)	10	6	2	Nil
TOTAL ...	40	46	3	Nil

2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were				Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted (6)	
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred			
			to H.M. Inspec. (4)	by H.M. Inspec. (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Unreasonable temperatures (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—						
(a) Insufficient	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Other offences against the act (not including offences relating to outwork)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
TOTAL ...	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	

The provision of sanitary conveniences on sites of building operations in accordance with Section 127 of the Act is an important matter often neglected and demands constant vigilance to avoid insanitary conditions arising.

There are two outworkers engaged in basket-making recorded under Part VIII of the Act.

A number of workplaces coming within the provisions of Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, are regularly inspected.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956.

This Act imposes upon local authorities the duty of ensuring that all agricultural units within its area where workers are employed in agriculture are provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences which must be properly maintained and kept clean.

There are 30 agricultural units in this Urban District which are generally small in character and on which no exceptional seasonal work takes place. Inspections of these agricultural units have revealed that all have available the water or conservancy type of sanitary convenience at the farmstead sufficient to meet the needs of regular and seasonal workers.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises registered or licenced under the above Act within the Urban District.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

The Noise Abatement Act recognised for the first time in history that noise can be a danger to health.

Subject to certain exceptions—noise or vibration which is a nuisance can now be dealt with as a statutory nuisance.

Complaints concerning excessive use of loud-speakers by ice-cream vendors and a beat group were dealt with during the year.

LICENSED PREMISES

There are 13 public houses within the Urban District.

Systematic inspections are made of the sanitary accommodation at these premises and should the need arise, reports are prepared and submitted to the General Annual Licensing Meeting of the Justices. By this means considerable structural improvements to sanitary accommodation have been effected at several of the licensed premises.

A Hygiene Code of Practice for public houses which, *inter alia*, directs particular attention to the cleansing and sterilising of glasses, abolition of lead and other unsuitable beer piping and pumps, cleansing of beer piping and pumps, disposal of drippings and overspill beer and the abolition of spittoons has been formulated and addressed to owners and licensees of all public houses and secretaries and stewards of all clubs within the Urban District by whom it has been well received.

The introduction of the pressurised beer pump together with the use of the lined drinking glass will do much to improve the hygiene of beer dispensing.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All food premises and the vehicles of food hawkers and itinerant vendors of ice-cream in the district have been inspected and assessed in comparison with the various provisions of the Model Byelaws for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air and The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Steady progress is being made in implementing the provisions of The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1967.

During the year 173 inspections were made for this purpose and except in nine cases all contraventions discovered were dealt with verbally on the spot. A serious customer complaint of glass in a locally made meat pie had to be dealt with during the year.

The basic aim of food hygiene is to ensure that food reaches the consumer in good condition and free from contamination from pathogenic organisms.

All food premises are inspected at irregular intervals to see—

- (a) that they are suitably equipped
- (b) that they are properly conducted and that the staff have been instructed in the hygienic handling of food
- (c) that the food is wholesome and fit for human consumption.

The food hygiene regulations require the food handler to take all such steps as may be reasonably necessary to protect food from risk of contamination and not to place food so as to involve any risk of contamination.

Advice on the retailing of vulnerable foods such as fresh meat pies—cooked meats and fresh sausages was distributed to all traders dealing in these commodities during the year.

Education of the food trader and his staff in the observance of the principles and practice of food hygiene is a continuing process which must be sustained.

This task can only be accomplished with the full co-operation of the customer who should realise the importance of shopping and eating where food is dealt with hygienically.

Customers have two big advantages over the inspector. The first is that they are on the spot the entire time the shop is open—the second is that they possess a powerful weapon—the ability to withdraw custom if dissatisfied with the service.

Regular ante-mortem and one hundred per cent post-mortem inspection of all animals slaughtered at the one licensed private slaughterhouse within the district was carried out as detailed in the following table.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 3A(4) of The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, the Council has determined that the days on which, and the hours in those days between which, animals may be slaughtered shall be Monday to Friday (inclusive) from 6-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. daily.

A total of 4,379 carcases and organs of food animals was inspected involving 216 visits to the slaughterhouse and all inspections were carried out in accordance with the provisions of The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963.

Maximum charges as allowed by these regulations are made by the Council for meat inspection and marking services which during the year produced an income of £172 15s. 6d.

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

DETAILS	Cattle excluding Cows		Sheep and Calves Lambs			Pigs	Horses
	Cows	Calves	Lambs				
Number killed	448	Nil	3	2,451	1,477	Nil	
Number inspected	448	Nil	3	2,451	1,477	Nil	
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :—</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	108	Nil	Nil	238	198	Nil	
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	24.11	Nil	Nil	9.75	13.54	Nil	
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i>							
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	10	Nil	
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.61	Nil	
<i>Cysticercosis :—</i>							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption:—

<i>Carcases-Organs or parts condemned</i>	<i>No. condemned</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned tons cwt. qrs. lbs.</i>
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CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS:—

Head and tongue	1	... Cysticercus bovis ...	1 0
Hearts	1	... Cysticercus bovis ...	3
Diaphragm or skirt	1 (3)	... Cysticercus bovis ...	2
Head and tongue	1	... Abscess	1 0
Head and tongue	1	... Actinomycosis	1 0
Head and tongue	1	... Actinobacillosis	1 0
Tongues	2	... Actinobacillosis	5
Lungs	1	... Abscess	10
Lungs	1	... Pneumonia	10
Livers—whole	36	... Distomatosis and Cirrhosis	4 1 26
Livers—whole	16	... Abscesses	2 0 0
Livers—whole	1	... Bacterial necrosis	14
Livers—part	47	... Cirrhosis	3 0 8
Kidneys	1	... Nephritis	1
Diaphragm or skirt	1	... Peritonitis	2
Diaphragm or skirt	2 (108)	... Abscess	4

SHEEP AND LAMBS:—

Forequarters	1	... Abscesses	20
Breasts	1	... Abscess	3
Livers	233	... Parasitic	4 0 17
Livers	3 (238)	... Abscesses	6

PIGS:—

Heads	10 (10)	... Tuberculosis	1 0 8
Whole carcases and organs	1	... Acute septic pneumonia	1 0 13
Whole carcases and organs	1	... Anaemia (advanced)	1 12
Heads	9	... Abscess	3 24
Hindquarters	1	... Abscess	1 12
Legs.....	2	... Abscess	1 12
Shoulders	1	... Abscess	20
Shoulders	1	... Arthritis	17
Loins	5	... Abscess	1 22
Ribs (part)	1	... Abscess	10
Belly (part)	1	... Abscess	3
Shanks and hocks	5	... Abscess	15
Plucks	8	... Congestion	2 8
Plucks	1	... Septic pneumonia	8
Plucks	3	... Abscess	22
Lungs with hearts	5	... Congestion and Pericarditis.....	20
Hearts	53	... Pericarditis.....	26½
Kidneys	1	... Hydronephrosis	0½
Livers	102	... Parasitic	3 2 0
Livers	1 (200)	... Abscess	4
			1 5 1 24

<i>Description of food</i>	<i>Disease or other cause of condemnation</i>	<i>Weight condemned</i>
		<i>cwts. qrs. lbs.</i>
Canned tomato pulp	Decomposition	4 3 8
Onions in brine	Multifarious contamination	2 1 23
Manufacturing chutney	Multifarious contamination	2 1 16
Pearl onions	Multifarious contamination	2 1 2
Long buttock of beef	Decomposition	3 18
Buttock of beef	Decomposition	2 19
Pasteurised milk	Tainted and malodorous	1 17
Frozen food (various)	Decomposition	24
Canned boiled ham	Decomposition	22
Leg of mutton	Popliteal abscess	4
		<hr/>
		14 1 13

Grand total weight : 1 ton 19 cwts. 3 qrs. 9 lbs.

A perusal of these post-mortem findings would not be complete without it being known that the *Cysticercus Bovis* infestations were in all cases confined to one degenerate cyst in the heart or masticatory muscle.

The prevalence of spinal and other abscesses in pigs arising from the habit of tail-biting is something which demands the greatest diligence.

The loss as food of bovine and sheep livers due to *Fascioliasis* is of considerable economic importance.

The canned tomato pulp is imported by a food canning firm operating in the district and damage during transit or deterioration during storage are the reasons for condemnation.

All condemned meat and other food is disposed of either to non-edible by-product manufacturers or by burying at the local authority's refuse disposal site under the direction and supervision of the Public Health Inspector. All condemned meat is disposed of in accordance with The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960.

The following information is given in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health Circular.

Number of food premises (by type of business) in district at end of year:—

Type of Business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	42
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish/game/etc.)	7
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry/game/etc.)	Nil
Meat shops (butchers/purveyors of cooked and preserved meat/tripe/etc.)	10
Bakers and/or confectioners	4
Fried fish shops	7
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery/minerals/ice-cream/etc.	4
Licensed premises/clubs/canteens/restaurants/cafes/snack bars and similar catering establishments	30
Others	6
TOTAL	110
Number of above premises where more than one type of classified business is carried on	14
Actual number of food premises	96

All food premises to which Regulations 16 and 19 apply—concerning the provision of wash-hand basins and sinks—are fully fitted to comply with the legal requirements.

Number of food premises (by type) registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

Type of Business	No. registered at 31-12-67	Number of inspections of registered premises during year
(a) Sale of ice-cream	37	
(b) Preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted or pressed or pickled or preserved meat	6	43

The provisions of Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1951, were not adopted by the Council and registration of premises and persons continues to be effected under Section 115 and 116 of the Act of 1938.

Food Hawkers registered under the Lancashire County Council (River Board and General Powers) Act, 1938.

A variable number of hawkers of meat or meat food products or fish or fruit or vegetables is registered with the Council under the provisions of the above Act.

Regular inspections of the vehicles and food offered or exposed for sale are made and the hawker's attention drawn to any irregularities found.

Ice-Cream:—

There are no manufacturers of ice-cream within the Urban District. All shop retailers of ice-cream and water-ice are equipped with a modern refrigerator and sell pre-packed products of reputable quality. The only loose ice-cream sold within the area is by itinerant vendors.

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and the County Medical Officer has kindly supplied the following details:—

A total of 53 samples was obtained by the County Sampling Officers in the Urban District made up of 38 samples of milk and 15 samples of other commodities.

Upon examination by the County Analyst all samples proved to be genuine.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Statutory Instruments Nos. 1019 and 1020 made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on the 29th May, 1961, came into operation on the 1st July, 1961, from which date existing slaughterhouses in the district had to comply with hygiene and prevention of cruelty construction regulations.

There is one licensed private slaughterhouse within the Urban District where much of the meat consumed by Standish residents is produced and this has been brought up to the standard required by the regulations. It is pleasing to record that the important work of meat production thereat has operated quite satisfactorily.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1958

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

The above Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. The above regulations are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knacker's yards.

A license to slaughter animals is valid for a maximum period of one year and must specify the types of animal permitted to be slaughtered and the type of stunning instrument to be used.

Eight slaughtermen are licensed by the Council to slaughter animals.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection of pet shops by Local Authorities. The principal purpose is to enforce reasonable treatment and accommodation of pet animals during their sale or keeping for sale.

There are no pet shops within the Urban District.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

This Act provides for a system of licensing and inspection by local authorities of any establishment at which a business of providing accommodation for cats or dogs is carried on.

The purpose of the Act is to regulate the keeping of boarding establishments for animals and for purposes connected therewith.

There are no boarding establishments within the Urban District.

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION

The following statistics give some idea of the milk supply of the district:—

Milk Producers in the district .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
including Producer-Retailers .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
including Producer-Wholesalers .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Milk Producers outside the district retailing in the district .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

All untreated milk is from tuberculin tested stock.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959:—

Number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from:—

(a) Dairies in the district .....	.....	3
(b) Shops in the district other than dairies .....	.....	31
(c) Premises outside the district .....	.....	4

The Urban District is included in Area 8 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 2) Order, 1958, in which the use of special designations in relation to the retail sales of milk for human consumption is made compulsory.

Thirty-three inspections of milk distributors' premises and vehicles were carried out during the year and time spent on advisory work in connection with clean and safe milk distribution.

Milk Sampling:—

Since all milk producing herds within the Urban District hold Tuberculin Tested licences and all milk disposed of wholesale is destined for pasteurisation—the sampling of untreated milk is confined to that from herds where the milk is sold by retail distribution.

During the year 14 samples of milk were taken for biological examination and all were found free from tuberculous infection.

Fourteen samples of milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue test for cleanliness and all were graded as satisfactory.

Brucellosis—Eight out of twenty-five samples of untreated milk from seven herds gave a positive reaction when submitted to the milk ring test for brucella infection.

Four herds were found to contain infected animals.

With the co-operation of the milk producers through their private veterinary practitioners infected herds were dealt with by:—

- (a) segregation of infected animals together with the pasteurisation of the milk from such animals.
- (b) removal of the infected animals for fatstock or slaughter.
- (c) sampling of milk until freedom from infection was established.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The Refuse Collection Service provides employment for 14 full-time men—this includes the foreman.

The vehicle establishment now consists of one “Dennis” Paxit IIA 16/24 cubic yard capacity compression loader and two “Dennis” 10 cubic yard sideloaders—all powered by diesel engines. A further “Dennis” Paxit IIA 16/24 cubic yard capacity compression loader has been ordered for delivery in 1968.

The changing character of refuse—lower density to greater volume—the impact of the shorter working week and the growth of the district indicate the importance of better payloads and in this respect the merits of the compression loader are self-evident.

Except for the interruptions caused by public and general holidays a weekly collection of refuse—from the rear of all premises—was maintained throughout the year.

It is gratifying to record that the refuse collection service operates generally without complaint—a service which intimately touches every ratepayer—and by the standard of this service the efficiency or otherwise of a local authority may sometimes be judged.

Considerable importance is attached to adequate and regular vehicle maintenance and the working of overtime is discouraged.

The Council has formally resolved not to undertake the removal of trade refuse—since with few exceptions—no charges are made for this service. Much of the trade refuse removed is salvaged and sold and the revenue so produced is greater than that which would accrue from trade refuse charges.

The sand pits at Langtree Hall Farm used for the purpose of refuse disposal have proved very satisfactory and no complaints have been received. It is anticipated that this site will provide disposal capacity for several years.

The four-wheel drive Michigan 35A tractor shovel acquired in 1965 has proved itself indispensible in achieving and maintaining adequate and regular control of the refuse disposal site.

The refuse tips are regularly treated with bait and insecticide as a precaution against rodent and insect infestation.

The emptying of the few remaining pail closets was carried out weekly.

The dustbin provision and ownership scheme has been in existence since 1951 and is operating satisfactorily. During the year 189 dustbins were provided out of the General Rate Fund.

Salvage was collected at the same time as the refuse and kept separately for baling and subsequent despatch to Thames Board Mills Limited at Warrington under contract arrangements.

The salvage of waste paper has come to be regarded as a permanent and important part of the Public Cleansing Service.

The workmen are rewarded 20 per cent of all income from the sale of salvaged materials as an incentive to increase collection.

The income from the sale of salvaged materials during the calendar year was:—

Grade	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed papers.....	90	16	3	750	11	10
Fibreboard containers	56	13	2	570	0	4
White newspapers	54	10	1	490	12	3
Total weight	202	0	2	1811	4	5
Rags and scrap	7	17	1	55	15	11
Grand total weight	209	17	3	1867	0	4

In collaboration with the local branch of the R.S.P.C.A., facilities for the lethalisation of unwanted, sick and injured cats and kittens are established at the Grove Lane Public Cleansing Depot.

The cleansing of non-County roads is carried out under the direction and supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor.

Anti-litter Campaign:—

The Council has provided a number of litter bins which have been fixed at suitable points in the district. These are emptied at weekly intervals by the Public Cleansing Department.

With a view to keeping the district clean and tidy—when requested the department seeks to co-operate as far as possible with the removal of unwanted bulky articles which residents find difficult to dispose of themselves.

In spite of the increasing use being made of this free service by the public generally—too much indiscriminate dumping still takes place by people whose actions are socially undesirable displaying as they do a serious lack of civic pride.

Action was taken to secure the disposal of several derelict motor cars—a task which was both irksome and time consuming.

New legislation:—

Consideration is being given to the implications of the Report of the Working Party on Refuse Storage and Collection and the involvement of the local authority with the provisions of Part III of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, relative to the disposal of abandoned vehicles and other refuse.

